

Historic, Archive Document

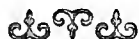
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

72, 57

Sec. 435½, P. L. & R.

S 17

SEED RARITIES



SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



An Offering of Seeds of Rare Plants
for Late Spring and Summer
Sowing

REX. D. PEARCE

MERCHANTVILLE

NEW JERSEY

Miss T. H. ...
JUN 1 1917
U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE,

BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY,

HORTICULTURAL CROPS &
DISEASES,

WASHINGTON,

D. C.



PLEASE READ BEFORE ORDERING

Seeds and bulbs offered will be forwarded as they are ready. All seed prices are post-paid and safe arrival is guaranteed. Please send cash with order, money order is preferred remittance form but checks are acceptable.

* Seed is offered subject to arrival, although I expect to have nearly all sorts in hand when this list is mailed. I try to send out only good seeds, but I cannot control the conditions under which they are planted, and I do not guarantee the results, nor will I be in any way responsible for the crop. This is a primary condition of sale, and the placing of an order with me from this list by a customer constitutes an automatic acceptance of it.

The present list supplements, but does not replace, the offerings in Catalog No. 17 in its various editions. If you do not already have a copy of the Catalog, one will be gladly mailed you.

REX. D. PEARCE

MERCHANTVILLE

NEW JERSEY

THE TURFING DAISY (a)

Botanically it is *Chamaemelon Tschihatchewii*, but this is surely one case where the use of the common name, if not preferable, is at least excusable. The Turfing Daisy makes a close densely tufted growth of handsome, dark green, finely cut foliage and may be used for carpeting dry barren places where grass will not grow. It thrives in poor soil and even under trees, or on sloping banks in either sun or shade. In summer it is starred with daisy flowers, but these may be clipped with a mower set a little high, if you do not care for them. Perennial, and quite hardy. Pkt. 15c; special pkg. 40c.

THE WILD ROSES (c)

Rosa Alpina—A hardy dwarf Wild Rose from the European mountains that will appeal particularly in the rockery because of its dainty pink to crimson flowers and miniature habit. Rare. Pkt. 30c; special pkg. 75c.

Rosa Blanda—One of the charming American Wild Roses, rather low growing and nearly thornless, blooming in May and June. The large deep pink flowers are followed by scarlet fruits. For the large rockery or wild garden. Pkt. 15c; special pkg. 40c.

Rosa Moyesii—From the far west of China comes this gorgeous Wild Rose, with its thick petalled ruby crimson flowers followed by long-pendant "sealing wax" red fruits. A handsome arching shrub. Pkt. of 15 seeds for 25c; 50 seeds for 70c.

Rosa Lucida—A taller Wild Rose for border or shrubbery planting. Glossy dark green foliage and clear pure pink flowers, sometimes varying to white. Pkt. 15c; special pkg. 40c.

Wild Rose Collection—On pkt. each of the above four for 75c. See also page 41 of Catalog No. 17.

THE HARDY SUCCULENTS (b)

A group of splendid succulents and semi-succulents that are ordinarily winter hardy in the open ground in the North.

Gormani Watsoni—A very pretty little trailing plant for the rock garden, with rosettes of fleshy leaves and heads of dainty cream colored flowers. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

Opuntia Opuntia—A true Cactus of almost iron-clad hardness. The thick, rich green, branching pads are sparsely dotted with spine clusters. In summer the pads are plump, succulent and strongly upright, but in winter they lie wrinkled, prostrate and leathery beneath the snow. Very pretty large yellow flowers. 25 seeds for 20c; 100 seeds for 70c. See page 36, Catalog No. 17, for seeds of other hardy Cacti.

Sedum Spectabile Rubrum—The most showy and most robust of the Sedums, growing sturdily erect, with thick, ovate glaucous leaves and flat-clustered crimson flower heads. An excellent border plant. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

Yucca Baccata—The Banana Yucca or Datil. Long red-margined sword shaped leaves, rough, concave, and with trailing threads. Cream colored flowers in tall panicles, the individual blooms much larger than with common Yucca. The fruits are thick and succulent, like short bananas, sweet and well-flavored when ripe. It is said that pies made from them are almost indistinguishable from apple pie. Also eaten out of hand, or the green fruits may be roasted. Give it a sheltered position north of Philadelphia. Pkt. 15c; special pkg. 40c.

Yucca Glauca—The earliest blooming Yucca, throwing closely filled three foot spikes of large white bell shaped flowers. The long, narrow, tough leaves are sometimes split and used like raffia. Pieces of the root may also be crushed and added to water, giving a profuse and cleansing lather. Said to be a good shampoo, and has been used in making toilet soap. This Yucca often grows a tree-like trunk from two to four feet long, which, however, lies prostrate. Entirely hardy. Pkt. 15c; special pkg. 40c.

Hardy Succulent Collection—One pkt. each of the five above for 90c. See pages 36 to 40 of Catalog No. 17 for more extended Cactus and Succulent listings.

CLIVIA MINIATA (a)

Bulb-like plants with heavy strap shaped leaves and showy clusters of "Amaryllis" flowers of the deepest and richest of possible oranges, these all through the spring and summer months. Clivias make excellent house plants, but unfortunately they have been too costly to be as widely known as they deserve. However they may be very easily grown from the large fleshy seeds which are available only during the summer and in early autumn. Seeds, 2 for 25c; 5 for 50c.

ORNAMENTAL CACTUS BLEND

From palest apple green to deep olive purple, dull or brightly burnished, and always armored in greater or less degree with intricate pikes and spines of varied hues, the Cacti offer in weird and diverse form, an ever interesting study. Add the charm of brilliant color in flower and fruit, the ease with which they come from seed, and their complete adaptability to the window garden conditions of the ordinary living room, and the reason for their wide and increasing popularity as house, border or rockery plants becomes self-evident. Seed offered in a wonderful blend of contrasting kinds. 35 seeds for 25c; 100 seeds for 60c; 500 seeds for \$2.50. See pages 36, 37, 38 and 48 of Catalog No. 17 for seed listings of separate and rare Cactus species.

AMARYLLIS (a)

The large flowered hybrid Amaryllis (*Hippeastrum*) makes one of the most showy and satisfactory of house plants. It is best propagated from seed, germinating readily and growing strongly.

Salmon Princess—Large trumpets of rich, clear salmon pink. Will not come entirely true, but even the variations will be beautiful. 10 seed pkt. for 25c; 50 seeds for \$1.10; 100 seeds for \$2.00.

Peerless Hybrids—Seed saved only from giant flowered plants and should give blooms of a marvelous diversity of colors and markings, ranging from tinted white, through shades of pink and rose, to scarlet and deepest crimson. Early summer is really the very best time of the year to sow Amaryllis seed. 15 seed pkt. for 25c; 50 seeds for 70c; 100 seeds for \$1.25; 250 seeds for \$3.00.

THE CRINUMS (a)

True bulbs of the Amaryllis family, some of them hardy, bearing splendid narrow-petalled flowers in great umbels. Crinum seeds are very large and fleshy, much like young bulbs, and are almost certain to grow strongly, even sprouting in storage.

Crinum Fimbriatum—The Milk and Wine Lily. A rare and beautiful Crinum with milk white flowers, striped through each petal with wine red. Not hardy and best handled in pots. Easy. Seed ready by June. Pkt. of 7 seeds for 20c; 25 seeds for 60c.

Crinum Longifolium (*C. Capense*)—Probably the hardiest of the Crinums, wintering in the open ground without protection at Philadelphia. The sturdy long strap leaves and great flower clusters give a most luxuriant and exotic garden effect. Pure white to rose tinted. Very fine. 3 seeds for 25c; 7 seeds for 50c.

Crinum Moorei—Wavy edged long thin leaves spring from the large bulbs. The open flower bells, sometimes six inches across, are carried in umbels above them. Soft pink to delicate rose. Usually winter hardy when mulched. 3 seeds for 25c; 7 seeds for 50c. The first new-crop seed of *C. Longifolium* and *C. Moorei* begins to arrive in August.

THE PALMS

The slender graceful Palms, unexact in culture, striking and exotic in appearance, are among the most satisfactory of decorative pot plants. The large seeds may be sown directly in the pots where they are to remain, ordinarily germinating readily unless kept too cool.

Cocos Plumosa—A handsome Palm with rather silvery plume-like leaves. One of the quickest growing of all. 7 seeds for 25c; 25 seeds for 75c.

Phoenix Reclinata—The dense crowns of feathery bright green leaves, spreading gracefully fountain-wise, make this one of the most attractive of Palms. 7 seeds for 25c; 25 seeds for 75c.

Serenoa Serrulata—The Palmetto. Although not quite as rapid growing as some of the other Palms, the Palmetto does particularly well in pots and is quite hardy, standing, for limited periods, temperatures as low as 10 degrees. It is a dwarf rather shrubby species with fan shaped leaves. 7 seeds for 20c; 25 seeds for 60c.

Washingtonia Filifera—An unusual Mexican Palm ranging into our own Southwest. It is most distinctive in appearance with its shaggy burden of pendant ancient leaves, thatching the trunk to the very base. It is one of the fan Palms as distinguished from the feather or plume palms of the Cocos and Phoenix groups. Pkt. 20c; special pkg. 50c.

Palm Collection—One pkt. each of the four for 75c.

AN ASIATIC IRIS GROUP (c)

Iris Clarkei—In the highlands of Sikkim this engaging Iris ranges. All the shades of blue-violet and ruddy purple are found in its flowers, and often they are veiled with a still deeper netting. The standards are narrow and horizontal, the falls large and drooping. Pkt. 20c; special pkg. 50c.

Iris Delavayi—Much like a larger and stronger I. Sibirica, growing often to four feet, but with distinctive coloring, a rich red violet. West China. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

Iris, Red-Violet Hybrids—Mostly crosses of I. Clarkei and I. Delavayi, showing a great diversity of colorings and markings and running largely to the deeper Tyrian shades with crimson-amaranth suffusions. An interesting strain. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

Iris Kaempferi Double—Seed saved altogether from the double or six-petalled forms, named varieties only, of the Japanese Iris. Will not come entirely true, but there should be many attractive seedlings. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

Asiatic Iris Collection—One pkt. each of the four for 75c. See pages 24 to 26, Catalog No. 17, for other Iris offerings.

THE ORNAMENTAL TUB FRUITS (b)

You may have a touch of the tropics in your window garden, rare flowers and fruits of the Southland almost for the asking, even the blossoms of the Orange and the Lemon from trees grown in miniature, planted in large flower pots or tubs. Orders for seeds of citrus plants, such as Lemon, Orange and Kumquat, cannot be accepted for shipment into the following states: Ala., Ariz., Calif., Fla., Ga., La., Miss., P. R., and Texas.

Ponderosa Lemon—*Handsome* little trees with glossy evergreen leaves and fragrant white flowers tinted with purple on the reverse. Bears large fruits, two to three pounds weight, often several at a time, on quite small pot-grown specimens. Flowers and fruits may be found together on well-grown plants almost the year around. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

Guava—*Psidium Cattleianum*. A handsome shrub with thick, leathery, glossy leaves. White fragrant flowers, followed by a prodigal abundance of aromatic, sweet and spicily flavored fruits, about the size of a walnut. Plants grow readily from seed and usually bear second year in pots. Two strains, red and yellow fruited respectively. Please specify preference. Either, Pkt. 20c; special pkg. 50c.

Kumquat Nagami—*Fortunella Margarita*. Dwarf shrubby broad leaved evergreens closely related to the Orange and particularly suitable for tub culture, fruiting when very small. The flowers are white and sweet-scented. The oval orange colored fruits, about 1½ inches long, are borne freely. They are sub-acid and may be used like lemons or in marmalade, but are also eaten out of hand, rind and pulp together, the rind being sweet and spicy and the combination of flavors most agreeable. Hardy to 15 degrees. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

Surinam Cherry—*Eugenia Uniflora*. Attractive little house-plant trees with evergreen foliage and creamy flowers, followed in prolific richness with glossy red "cherries" of delicious but unusual flavor. Possibly the most popular tub fruit. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

Carica Papaya—A rare tub plant. See description page 46, Catalog No. 17. Pkt. 25c.

Collection—One each of the five for \$1.00.

LATE ARRIVALS

The "too late to classify" group. Seeds of interesting rarities of all kinds and for all purposes.

Hesperocallis Undulata—*The Evening Beauty*. A large bulb bearing wavy white edged leaves. The tubular flowers in racemes on stout stems are of waxen whiteness and intensely fragrant. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

Trillium Erectum (c)—*The Purple Trillium*. The flowers vary from blush pink, through red, to deepest plum purple. Pkt. 20c; special pkg. 50c.

Cyrtosa Lindleyana—A remarkable tuberous rooted terrestrial Orchid, newly found, growing among rocks on mid-Himalayan slopes. Large showy yellow flowers on tall, branching, leafless stems. Allied to *Vanilla*. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

Duranta Plumieri—Golden Dewdrop. A very pretty small evergreen shrub growing in the open south and desirable for the unusual window garden in the North. Sprays of bright blue flowers, followed by little golden yellow berries. Pkt. of 6 seeds for 15c; 25 seeds for 50c.

Epimedium Macranthum (b)—The Bishop's Hat. A hardy and easily grown perennial, in bloom as dainty and fascinating as a rare Orchid. The airy flowers, varying from white, through pink or rose, to violet purple, are carried in loose sprays. If cut close to the ground they will last in water for weeks. The foliage alone gives a most pleasing and unusual effect arranged in bowls. *Epimedium* is sometimes used as a pot plant, but it also thrives in border or rockery without protection, preferring some light shade. Makes a charming evergreen ground cover under trees, the foliage taking on bronzy tints. Pkt. 15c; special pkg. 35c; ¼ oz. 75c.

Hedychium Spicatum Acuminatum (b)—One of the prettiest Garland Lilies and quite easily protected in northern gardens, not being evergreen. Showy fragrant scarlet flower spikes. A good house plant also, thriving in dry atmosphere if given plenty of water at the root. Pkt. 15c; special pkg. 35c.

Podophyllum Emodi (b)—Indian May Apple. In late spring and early summer this Himalayan Mandrake, with its bronzy umbrella-like foliage and pale rose flowers gives delightful effects in rich soil and tree shade. Edible scarlet egg-shaped fruits. Pkt. 15c; special pkg. 35c.

Tetrapanax Papyrifera—Rice Paper Plant. Rapid growing plants for spectacular subtropical backgrounds or specimens. Very large leaves, each with five to seven finger-like divisions. The stem pith may, with care and a sharp knife, be unrolled scroll fashioned to form thin narrow sheets, used in China as a drawing material or for making artificial flowers. Usually hardy with attention to the Potomac. Above, requires shelter and due protection. Pkt. 20c; special pkg. 50c.

Fritillaria Stracheyi (c)—Rather open amaranth bells, faintly checkered with old gold. Exact botanical position undetermined. The late E. H. Wilson referred it to *Nomocharis*, (*N. nana*), that curious genus partaking of *Calochortus*, *Fritillaria* and *Lilium* characteristics. Pkt. 25c.

Zantedeschia Rehmannii—The rare Pink Calla Lily. Rather dwarfer and smaller flowered than the White Calla but of alluring coloring, palest blush to pure rose. 7 seeds for 25c; 18 seeds for 50c.

Pelargonum Radula (a)—The Balsam Geranium. Highly fragrant, deeply cut and divided foliage on much branched stems. Rather small purple flowers. An interesting relative of the Rose Geranium. Pkt. 20c; special pkg. 50c.

TALINUM CALYGINUM (a)

A splendid succulent flowering plant with a somewhat tuberous root. Hardy with slight winter protection, or may be grown as an annual, blooming the first year from seed. The leaves, in tangled tufts, are little thick tender spikes. The rose-purple blossoms with golden stamens are carried on thin wiry ten inch stems, so slender that the flowers appear to float in the air. Ever blooming. Pkt. 25c; special pkg. 60c.

EREMURUS (c)

Magnificent plants with majestic flower spikes 4 to 8 feet high. The myriads of flowers are like small stars. They come in white and in varied shades of pink, rose, yellow, copper and orange. Slow growers, but well worth waiting for. Mixed colors. 25 seeds for 25c; 100 seeds for 65c.

FOR SPRING AND SUMMER SOWING

Among the seeds in Catalog No. 17, sent on request if you have mislaid your copy, that are particularly suitable for sowing now are Ostrowskya, Allium, Rheum, Hedychium, Asphodelus, Phlomis, Tradescantia, Dodecatheon, Dielytra, Helleborus, Commelina, all the Irises, the "Ten Easy Lilies," Sisyrinchium, Pardonthus, Hemerocallis, Dianthus, Violet, Jeffersonia, others also. See index, pages 44 and 45 in No. 17.

BULB AND PLANT OFFER

Bulb prices for express collect shipment. If desired by mail, add 5% east of Pittsburgh, 10% to the Mississippi and 15% west of the river to cover postage and packing.

Sternbergia Lutea—The Mount Etna Lily or Autumn Daffodil. Large cup shaped flowers of richest golden yellow suddenly appear in September, along with a tangle of green leaves. True bulbs of the Amaryllis family, but hardy with protection in the North. Rare. Each 30c; 10 for \$2.50; 25 for \$5.00.

Iris Giganticoerulea—The Great Blue Delta Iris. The most showy and the largest American Iris, sometimes growing to seven feet under favorable conditions. Flowers six to eight inches across on well established plants, of purest true blue. A new Iris discovered only a few years ago, and this is about the first offering at a reasonable price. Hardy to New York, probably above with protection. Strong roots, each 90c; 3 for \$2.25; 10 for \$6.50.

Iris Fulva—An Iris species quite alone in its unique and beautiful coloring, tawny terra cotta, shaded with deep copper bronze. Good roots, each 75c; 3 for \$2.00; 10 for \$5.75.